

Robert's courses and his success recruiting women into his automotive technology program. Furthermore, Robert has won acclaim for his unique talent for welcoming special education students and helping them excel in the program. Great teachers, like Robert, draw on their own practical experience in order to bring the real world into the classroom. Recently, the State Board of Community Colleges and Occupational Education named Robert faculty member of the year.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand today and recognize Robert Duncan before this Congress and this Nation. We should all express our deepest gratitude to teachers like Robert. They make an enormous difference one life at a time, providing countless students with opportunity and hope. Teaching truly is a noble calling, and Robert has answered that call.

#### LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT

#### HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 27, 2003*

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I commend to my colleagues' attention the following letter sent to President George W. Bush by members of the California Legislature stating their opposition to war against Iraq. I am proud of these 52 lawmakers who represent a diversity of California's citizens. They understand firsthand the cost of this capricious act. Financing this war will mean less federal investment in schools and nursing homes and the loss of basic services for the working poor, the disabled and mentally-ill. They are rightly concerned about the impact this war will have on those young Americans who have been called to fight. They are disappointed about the diminished respect and influence America will have in the world given the President's use of military power, not the interests of peace and democracy, in his approach to foreign affairs. I commend my fellow Californians for their eloquence and outspokenness on an issue of such great importance to the American people.

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE,  
*March 4, 2003.*

Hon. GEORGE W. BUSH,  
*President, United States of America, The White House, Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: As Members of the California State Legislature, we respectfully write in opposition to a war on Iraq without a formal resolution by the United Nations Security Council and a declaration of war by Congress.

As elected representatives of the largest population and economy in America, we have many concerns over the policies your administration is pursuing. These include:

A lack of credible evidence that meets the standard of "beyond a reasonable doubt" that shows the imminent danger Iraq poses to America's essential interests. Neither Colin Powell nor Hans Blix presented a case sufficient to warrant an attack by American forces.

A failure to persuade other nations to support our intentions. Unlike the aftermath of the Attack on America, you have not been able to enlist the support of other key nations, who presumably have been given even more intelligence data than has the American public. This lack of geo-political solidarity substantially weakens America's case in the court of world opinion. Further, it en-

hances the prospects of fighting a war with few allies.

Lack of clarity about the possible instability in the Middle East during the war and subsequent foreign occupation of Iraq. It seems unlikely that the Muslim world will for long passively accept America's incursion—whatever our provocation.

Respectfully,

Don Perata, Byron Sher, Jack Scott, Mike Machado, Tom Torlakson, Gloria Romero, Wesley Chesbro, Debra Bowen, Deborah Ortiz, John Burton, Liz Figueroa, Gil Cedillo, Sheila Kuehl, John Vasconcellos, Edward Vincent, Richard Alarcón, Jackie Speier, Dede Alpert.

Paul Koretz, John Longville, Mervyn Dymally, Christine Kehoe, Jackie Goldberg, Fabian Nuñez, Sally J. Lieber, Ronald Calderon, John Laird, Loni Hancock, Judy Chu, Patricia Wiggins, Alan Lowenthal, Hannah-Beth Jackson, Gene Mullin, Cindy Montañez, Marco Firebaugh, Patty Berg, Wilma Chan.

#### RECOGNIZING THE SOCIAL PROBLEM OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT, AND SUPPORTING EFFORTS TO ENHANCE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE PROBLEM

SPEECH OF

#### HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 26, 2003*

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 113 recognizing the social problem of child abuse and neglect, and supporting efforts to enhance public awareness of the problem. Although we live in the world's wealthiest nation, we have yet to eradicate some of the most disheartening social ills that plague our society. Throughout this great republic, it is a fact that many of our children are in great need, impacted by the horrifying realities of unsafe and unhealthy living environments, wherein abuse and neglect tear away at the very core of their youthfulness.

With regards to the prevalence of this problem, in 1999, an estimated 3,244,000 children were reported to Child Protective Services agencies as alleged victims of child maltreatment. Child abuse reports have maintained a steady growth for the past ten years, with the total number of reports nationwide increasing 45 percent since 1987. Neglect represents the most common type of reported and substantiated form of maltreatment. In 1996, 25 States provided the following breakdown for reported cases: 62 percent involved neglect, 25 percent physical abuse, 7 percent sexual abuse, 3 percent emotional maltreatment, and 4 percent other. For substantiated cases, 31 States gave the following breakdowns: 60 percent neglect, 23 percent physical, 9 percent sexual, 4 percent emotional maltreatment and 5 percent other.

Figures issued by another study conducted in 2000, which surveyed 48 States, representing over 95 percent of the population under 18, reveal a serious need for concern. Approximately 1,356 children died due to causes of child abuse and neglect. More specifically, children under 5 years old accounted for four out of five of all fatalities reported, which served as the 2nd leading cause of

death of children ages 1–4 in the United States. In that same year, children under 1 year old accounted for two out of five of all fatalities reported.

In the State of Texas, Child Protective Services reported there were 131,147 investigations of child abuse and neglect and 47,532 were confirmed victims. In fact, of the child abuse and neglect related fatalities in the State of Texas, figures from 2001 data show Harris County with the most occurrences.

To this end, there is no doubt that child abuse and neglect continues to be a significant problem in the United States. These statistics can only begin to help us understand the scope of the problem—who is affected and what extents to which they are. Nonetheless, this legislation makes way for others in the public who may not ordinarily think about such problems more acutely aware of these issues.

Our children are our future, but their health and safety in our society continues to decline. Everyone has an obligation to ensuring children have a chance at a great life and a prosperous future. The reality is alarming, but our commitment to the goals of this legislation must be strong. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS, GREATER RIVERSIDE CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE, MORENO VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, AMERICAN RED CROSS, SALVATION ARMY AND COMMUNITY FOUNDATION, MARCH CANTEEN, HARVEST CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP AND OTHERS

#### HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 27, 2003*

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to several organizations whose patriotism, dedication and contributions to the troops deploying out of March Air Reserve Base in Riverside, California are exceptional. As our troops have been preparing to deploy to the Middle East many local organizations have taken it upon themselves to provide an outpouring of support and assistance. The local organizations involved have been the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce, Moreno Valley Chamber of Commerce, American Red Cross, Salvation Army and Community Foundation, March Canteen and Harvest Christian Fellowship.

March Air Reserve Base has a long history of honorable service to our country and once again it will hold a place in U.S. military history. The substantial airlift of 6,500 tons of cargo and the movement of 26,400 Marines headed for overseas has been helped by public donations of food and \$30,000. The volunteers have handed out fruit, potato chips, cookies and paperback books to each Marine passing through the Marine deployment terminal. The Marines were also given personal items in order to provide a measure of comfort during their stay in the Middle East.

The groups and individuals involved in the volunteer effort expressed nothing but appreciation and admiration for the men and women